Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An injectable composition suitable for tissue bulking in a mammal, said composition comprising:

(a) biocompatible, swellable, hydrophilic, non-toxic and substantially spherical microspheres, wherein the microspheres comprise a ~~high water absorbing~~ polymer selected from the group consisting of acrylic polymers, acrylamide polymers, vinyl alcohol polymers, acrylate polymers, ~~sodium acrylate polymers,~~ copolymers thereof, and combinations thereof, wherein the polymer is an anionic polymer that is crosslinked in an amount of from about 0.5% to about 20%, and wherein the polymer can increase its weight by at least about 20 times its original dry weight upon contacting water, and

(b) a biocompatible carrier,

wherein said composition is injectable through needles of about 18 to 26 gauge, and wherein said microspheres swell to a predetermined size after injection within the non-dermal tissue of said mammal.

2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises the microspheres in an amount from about 10% to about 90% by weight and the biocompatible carrier in an amount from about 10% to about 90% by weight.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the composition comprises the microspheres in an amount from about 10% to about 50% by weight and the biocompatible carrier in an amount from about 50% to about 90% by weight.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a suspension of said microspheres in said biocompatible carrier.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the biocompatible carrier is an aqueous based solution, a hydro-organic solution, or mixtures thereof.

8. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the biocompatible carrier comprises salts composed of cations selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc, and ammonium in an amount of from about 0.01 M to about 5 M.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein average diameters of the microspheres after injection are about 1 to 4 times of average diameters of the microspheres immediately prior to injection.

12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a sodium acrylate and vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinyl acetate and acrylic acid ester copolymer, sodium polyacrylate polymer, or mixtures thereof.

13. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein the polymers comprise from about 0.5% to about 20%, by molecular weight, of crosslinkers.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 1, which further comprises cells associated with surfaces of at least a portion of the microspheres prior to injection.

15. (Original) The composition of claim 14, wherein the cells are autologous cells from the subject mammal.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 15, wherein the autologous cells are fat cells, muscle cells, subcutaneous cells, dermal cells, epidermal cells, or combinations thereof.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprises therapeutic agent, radio-pacifying agent, contrast medium, or mixtures thereof.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 17, wherein said agents or medium are bound to the microspheres.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 17, wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-inflammatory agent.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the microspheres are chemically modified to have therapeutic effects, anti-inflammatory effects, anti-bacterial effects, anti-histamine effects, or combinations thereof.

Claims 21-51 (Canceled).

52. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 4, wherein the biocompatible carrier is a saline solution.

53. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a sodium acrylate and vinyl alcohol copolymer.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a sodium acrylate polymer or copolymer thereof.